

Mary Thackeray Perry House
434 East Zaragoza Street
Pensacola
Escambia County
Florida

HABS No. FLA-203

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. FLA-203

MARY THACKERAY PERRY HOUSE

Location: 434 East Zaragoza Street, Escambia County, Pensacola, Florida. The house is located on the northwest corner of Zaragoza and Florida Blanca Streets.

Present Owner: Handsel Butts

Present Occupant: Veazey Rainwater, Jr.

Present Use: Art gallery and residence

Statement of Significance: This structure is an excellent example of the raised wood frame cottage typical of the Gulf of Mexico coast. Probably built in 1883, it has a hipped roof, inset porches, central hallway and large floor length windows to exploit prevailing climatic conditions. Wings have been added and porches have been enclosed to meet the needs of a succession of occupants.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The house is located on the original Lot 45, Block 9, of Pensacola as surveyed by Vincente S. Pintado, a Spanish officer, in 1813. The lot fronts on Zaragoza Street 85'-3" and extends 173'-4" on Florida Blanca Street.

As early as 1778 there was a small structure on this property owned by Francisco Dauphin. He utilized it as a residence and as a bakery. (This is not to be confused with the bakery on Alcaniz Street.) It is believed that this structure remained on the property until approximately 1823. Dauphin sold the house and lot to E. A. Sierra. Dr. Sierra relinquished the property, and on December 19, 1817, it was put up for public auction and was purchased by John Brosnaham. After the Dauphin house was torn down the lot remained vacant and was used to pasture cows belonging to Francisco Moreno.

Subsequent ownership of the property is unknown until February 3, 1882, when Lot 45 was sold by Dr. Robert B. S. Hargis and his wife, Modeste, to Octavus Smith (at that time an inspector in Pensacola) and his wife (Laperle) Pearl Moreno Smith, for \$200.

The following year, June 30, 1883, the property was sold for \$800 to Mary Thackeray Perry, who had recently married Charles Perry, a Pensacola Bay pilot.

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Mary Perry deeded the property to her husband in August of 1890, though retaining the control and management of the property during her natural life, which ended around 1899. Charles Perry remarried and his widow, Annie May, and his children, Charles B. Perry and wife Bertie, William A. Perry and wife Martha, and Mrs. Georgia McLeod and husband A. H., inherited the property in November of 1926 after Charles Sr.'s death. The heirs were involved in a court suit to settle the ownership of the property in December of 1926 through February of 1927.

It appears that Annie May, widow of Charles Perry, was deceased by July of 1931 when Georgia McLeod Horsburg and her husband, W. G., sold their one third share of the property to C. B. and William Perry. The Perrys mortgaged the property for \$2500. The mortgage was foreclosed on August 17, 1937, which prompted another law suit. It appears that the property was retained in the Perry family by selling the property to Bertie Perry for \$1900, the amount due on the mortgage and added court costs. The title to the property was quieted in 1941 when the Perrys sold the property with existing mortgages to M. P. Tookes. The property passed through various other owners until 1968 when it was purchased by Handsel Butts and leased for an art gallery.

2. Date of erection: It is assumed that the house was built for Mary Perry shortly after her purchase of the property in 1883.
 3. Architect: Unknown
 4. Original plans and construction information: None known
 5. Alterations and additions: A wing, constructed in the same manner as the main house extends to the west. A kitchen ell extends to the north. The dates of the construction of these wings, if they did follow the construction of the main house, are unknown.
 6. Important old views: None known
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: Charles Perry became a ship captain in 1908 and was chairman of the Pensacola Pilot Association. He retired from the sea in 1909 and went into business in Pensacola as secretary-treasurer of A. H. McLeod & Co. (successors to Joseph H.

Porter), at 716 S. Palafox Street. This sail making firm manufactured hammocks, tents, cots, and other equipment made from canvas. Later, he was associated with the Southern Tent and Awning Company. His son worked for a time as bookkeeper with the Marine Grocery Company, and then helped organize the Pensacola Mattress Company. HABS
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17-PENSA
10-

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Deed Books, County Circuit Court records, Clerk of Courts Office, Escambia County Court House, Pensacola, Florida.
2. Secondary and published sources: None known

Prepared by Samuel Proctor, Historian
1969
and
Linda V. Ellsworth
Assistant Historian
Historic Pensacola
Preservation Board
1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Description: This one-story rectangular house, has a wing to the west, an ell to the north, and inset porches on the south, five-bay front facade of the main structure and on the two-bay wing.
- B. Description of Exterior:
 1. Overall dimensions: The house, including the wing and ell, is 56'-6" x 76'-8".
 2. Foundations: Brick piers, some with cement wash, support the structure.
 3. Wall construction, finish and color: The wood frame with mortise and tenon joinery is sheathed in weatherboarding, 5" to the weather, at the south and east elevations and novelty siding on the north and west elevations. Set within corner boards, the siding is painted white.
 4. Porches: The inset porches of the south elevation have boxed columns with applied mouldings forming capitals below simple geometric jig-saw cut corner brackets, which extend to the underside of the boxed porch soffit. Evi-

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dence on the columns indicates that there were originally simple wood balustrades which have been replaced by modern wooden railings. The porches have tongue and groove wood floors. Evidence indicates, also, that there were originally porches at the north side of the west wing and on the west side of the ell. These spaces are presently enclosed to form interior spaces. The wood steps have open risers and are painted dark green.

5. Chimneys: All the chimneys have been removed above the roof line, though the brick foundations and two of the original three chimney breasts remain.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The principal doorway is centered on the south facade of the main structure. It has simple wood trim, a two-light transom and an in-swinging modern glazed door. The doorways into the wing are similar. At the ell the doorways are simply trimmed and have traditional four-panel doors.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The full length four-over-six light sash of the south elevation have wide vertical muntins, narrow horizontal muntins, old glass, and metal hooks to hold the singly hung lower sash in an open position. The wide flat trim of the south windows has moulded lintels at the heads. Other window openings have six-over-six light sash with plain trim and are combined with miscellaneous modern sash. Hinge sections in the jambs of the openings suggest that pairs of louvered blinds were originally hung at each original window opening. No blinds remain.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: The roofs of the house are hipped, and are covered with roll composition roofing over wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice and eaves: The moulded cornice consists of a cyma reversa crown moulding, a plain fascia, a deep soffit, and a torus-scotia bed moulding. The cornice is continuous around the main structure and the wing except where it is interrupted for the lower roof of the ell, which has a similar moulded cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The main structure consists of four similar rooms, two on each side of the central hallway. The

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17-PENSA
10-

northwest room opens into the single room of the wing through a large archway. Across the rear of this suite of two rooms there are two narrow rooms with a central vestibule which fills in an original north porch. There are three successive rooms in the ell which are accessible from the northeast room of the main structure. Two rooms fill in the enclosed west porch of the ell.

2. Stairways: There are no stairways.
3. Flooring: Random width floor boards are varnished, painted, unpainted, and have some modern coverings.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Generally, the rooms are plastered, but the walls of the hallway are sheathed in flush boarding. In addition, there is miscellaneous modern fiber-board and vertical siding wall covering.
5. Doorways and doors: Traditional four-panel doors are hung in frames trimmed with simple backband mouldings and with two light transoms.
6. Decorative features: The southeast room contains a cast iron mantelpiece with heavily moulded panels, set with a cement hearth. The adjoining room has a simple classical wood mantelpiece with a cast iron firebox for a grate which has been removed. All the fireplaces are closed.
7. Notable hardware: None of importance
8. Mechanical equipment: None of importance
- D. Site and Surroundings: This structure faces south on East Zaragoza Street at Florida Blanca Street. At the southwest corner there is a brick terrace which extends along the west of the property and contains a pool and coral curbs which contain a rich variety of plantings. The east area of the property is unlandscaped. A modern outbuilding is located at the northwest corner of the wing.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, AIA
HABS--Pensacola
August 28, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project, sponsored by the Pensacola Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, now known as the Historic Pensacola Preservation

Board of Trustees, in cooperation with the Historic American Buildings Survey, was recorded during the summer of 1968 in Pensacola under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS; Professor F. Blair Reeves, AIA (University of Florida), Project Supervisor; and Student Assistant Architects John O. Crosby (University of Florida), David L. Van de Ven, Jr. (Texas Technological College), and Edward Bondi, Jr. (University of Florida). The historical information was prepared by Professor Samuel Proctor (University of Florida), by Assistant Historian Linda V. Ellsworth (Historic Pensacola Preservation Board), and by Rodd L. Wheaton (Architect, HABS) who edited all the data in 1972.

Addendum to

HABS No. FL-203

Mary Thackeray Perry House
Seville Square Historic District
434 East Zaragoza Street
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as recorded in 1968 and 1972

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